

Census in the 15th District

Written by Mike Honda
Thursday, 25 February 2010 20:23

April 1, 2010 is Census Day. With the 2010 Census drawing closer, it is important that we all do what we can to guarantee as complete and [accurate a count](#) in our community as possible. Many people don't realize just how many aspects of our government are affected by the Census: the number of federal representatives allocated to each state, federal funding to state and local governments for infrastructure and services, and funding priorities for different communities and for the nation as a whole. Each year, over \$400 billion in federal funding is allocated based on the populations and the needs indicated by the Census count.

According to [Article I, Section II](#) of the United States Constitution: "Representatives and Direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this union, according to their respective Numbers...The actual enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years..." That directive by our founding fathers marked the establishment of the [United States Census](#), and has mandated its observance every decade since.

With our state and local budgets in crisis, [California is extremely reliant on federal funding](#) right now to keep essential services and government programs running smoothly. This year is also important to California politically, as for the first time, the state is at [risk of losing one of our Congressional seats](#) and decreasing our voice in the federal government. For these reasons, it is essential that everyone in our community take action to support this year's Census and to ensure a complete count.

Over the next several weeks, Census operations throughout the state will be ramping up, and you may begin receiving information in the mail, and noticing signs, ads, and people promoting the Census in your community. The Census Bureau will also be working to generate publicity through the [Census Road Tour Bus](#), which will travel to events around the country, the [Census in Schools](#) program, which teaches children about the Census, and through a variety of local, regional, and

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national media outlets. It is important for everyone to note that the Census is both secure and confidential. The information provided to the Census Bureau is protected by law, and cannot be provided to any other government agency for at least 70 years.

In mid-March, the [Census Bureau will send out enumeration forms](#) to every home in the country, asking recipients to answer ten simple questions about the people in their household. Those who don't return their completed form by Census Day (April 1) may be visited at home by a Census employee who can help them fill out their questionnaires, and address any concerns they might have. You can help by making sure that your family, your friends, and your neighbors know about the importance and the security of information collected by the Census, and by making sure that you participate, by filling out your form and returning it to the Census Bureau by Census Day.

For more information about the Census, please visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

Bilingual speakers are encouraged to apply

All census takers must be able to speak English, but people who have bilingual skills are needed in communities where a large number of residents primarily speak other languages. If you have the appropriate language skills and cultural knowledge to communicate well in your community, I encourage you to apply.

Apply today by [contacting your Local Census Office](#) or by calling 1-866-861-2010.

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Click here <http://www.census.gov/hrd/www/index.html> or <http://2010.census.gov/partners/pdf/JobsFAQ.pdf> for frequently asked questions on 2010 Census Jobs.